



## Shields Lake 2005



Shields Lake is a beautiful 7-acre lake located in Byrd Park (the City of Richmond's largest park) in the heart of Richmond. Shields Lake is the last lake in the Park's series of three. A large flock of geese reside at the lake year-round, adding to the entertainment value for visitors. The entire shoreline of the lake is accessible to anglers.

Aside from the channel catfish and trout (trout are no longer being stocked) that have been stocked in this lake as part of the Department's Urban Fishing Program, this lake has had relatively poor fish populations typical of urban lakes. The largemouth bass population was typically low and bluegill were overabundant and stunted. A few other species inhabit the lake, but they're typically not important to the fishery due to either low abundance or small size. and the yellow perch and bullhead catfish populations were dominated by small fish.

In 2004, five species of fish and one hybrid type were collected using electrofishing: largemouth bass, bluegill, hybrid bluegill, green sunfish, brown bullhead, and yellow perch. Only one adult bass was collected, but reproduction was excellent as evidenced by the collection of approximately 170 young-of-the-year (fish spawned in spring, 2004).

The other fish populations were relatively low and dominated by small fish. As in Swan Lake, no channel catfish from the recent stocking were collected. Anglers may be catching these catfish rather quickly after stocking.